

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4325

LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESEL FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NO, OVIP (FRYDENLUND, KNUT)

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: OSLO'S 4234

1. IN ORDER TO GET A BETTER FIX ON WHAT FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND MIGHT RAISE WITH THE SECRETARY OR OTHER OFFICIALS WHO MAY RECEIVE HIM, DCM MET ON NOVEMBER 23 AT MY REQUEST WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VIBE, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY FORMIN. VIBE EXPLAINED THAT FRYDENLUND HAS BEEN SO PREOCCUPIED DURING THE PAST WEEK WITH DEFENDING HIS MINISTRY'S POLICY AND BUDGET BEFORE THE STORTING THAT HE HAS ONLY NOW BEGUN PLANNING HIS WASHINGTON TRIP. FINAL DETAILS WILL BE WORKED OUT WHEN THE DELEGATION REACHES NEW YORK. VIBE STRESSED THAT FRYDENLUND HAS NO SPECIFIC INITIATIVE IN MIND IN GOING TO WASHINGTON BUT SIMPLY WISHES TO INFORM HIMSELF ABOUT U.S. IMPRESSIONS AND VIEWS CONCERNING THE CURRENT WORLD SCENE.

2. THE ONLY SPECIFIC AGENDA WHICH THE NORWEGIAN SIDE HAS PREPARED
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FOR THE TALKS IS ONE PROPOSED BY AMBASSADOR SOMMERFELT. READING FROM

THE AMBASSADOR'S CABLE, VIBE SAID THE NORWEGIAN SIDE WOULD PROBABLY EXPECT TO DISCUSS:

- THE ATLANTIC DECLARATION;
- THE RELATIONSHIP OF US CONSULTATIONS WITH EEC TO THOSE IN NATO;
- MBFR AND CSCE NEGOTIATIONS: NOT IN DETAIL BUT GENERAL IMPRESSIONS AND EVALUATION OF THEIR PROSPECTS;
- BURDENSARING AND U.S. FORCES IN EUROPE;
- MIDDLE EAST;
- US RELATIONS WITH USSR AND CHINA;
- GREECE.

3. VIBE ADDED TO THIS LIST THE OIL AND ENERGY CRISIS. HE DID NOT MENTION MARITIME AND SHIPPING, DECOLONIZATION OR FAR EASTERN QUESTIONS-- LISTED BY HIS DEPUTY, EDWARDSSEN, IN AN EARLIER DISCUSSION OF FRYDENLUND'S VISIT. (EDWARDSSEN, WHO IS AT THE UNGA, MAY ALSO JOIN THE DELEGATION). VIBE SAID THAT BRIEFING PAPERS HAD BEEN PREPARED ON INDOCHINA AND ON JAPAN'S ROLE IN ASIA BUT HE DID NOT EXPECT FRYDENLUND TO RAISE EITHER TOPIC.

4. VIBE'S STATEMENT THAT "YOU OR WE" WILL PROBABLY WISH TO DISCUSS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GREECE PROVIDED AN OPENING TO ASK WHAT UNDERLAY FRYDENLUND'S STATEMENT IN THE STARTING DEBATE ON NOVEMBER 20 THAT HE FORESAW THE POSSIBILITY OF APPLYING PRESSURE ON THE GREEK QUESTION "BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE NATO." (CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME TODAY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS CONSULTING ACTIVELY WITH THE NORWEGIANS CONCERNING POSSIBLE ACTION ON GREEK QUESTION; HE UNDERSTOOD THE REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE ACTION "OUTSIDE" NATO TO MEAN BILATERAL EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE THE U.S. TO PUT PRESSURE UPON GREECE). VIBE EXPLAINED THAT NORWAY WISHED TO CONSULT WITH COUNTRIES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF NATO, WHO MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO HELP PROMOTE LIBERALISATION THERE. HE POINTED OUT THAT, IN DISCUSSING ACTION INSIDE OF NATO, FRYDENLUND HAD STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF FINDING A BROAD BASE OF AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO HAVE MAXIMUM EFFECT. HE ADDED THAT, WHEN HE TOLD FRYDENLUND ABOUT HIS APPOINTMENT WITH THE AMERICAN DCM, HE WAS TOLD TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE FORMIN IS NOT RPT NOT PLANNING ANY SPECIAL INITIATIVE ON GREECE (OR ANY OTHER QUESTION; HIS PURPOSE IS SIMPLY TO OBTAIN THE U.S. APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION IN GREECE.

5. VIBE SAID THAT, ONCE WASHINGTON APPOINTMENTS ARE FIRM, HE
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PROPOSES TO ADVISE THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY FROM NEW YORK WHAT FRYDENLUND WOULD HOPE TO DISCUSS AT EACH OF THE SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS. (VIBE REFERRED TO POSSIBLE APPOINTMENTS WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESSINGER, ON THE M.E. WITH SISCO OR POPPER, AND WITH YOU ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS). EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD FIND TIME TO RECEIVE FRYDENLUND, VIBE SAID THAT HIS FORMIN WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED AT SUCH A MEETING IN DISCUSSING THE ATLANTIC DECLARATION AND THE ROLE OF THE EEC

AND NATO IN THE CONSULTATION PROCESS. HE WOULD ALSO HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY MIGHT SHARE HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE STATE OF US-SOVIET AND US-CHINESE RELATIONS.

6. COMMENT: EVEN THOUGHT FRYDENLUND MAY NOT PLAN TO DISCUSS SOUTHEAST ASIA, I WOULD HOPE WE COULD MAKE OUR VIEWS CLEAR ON THE QUESTION OF THE PRG AND THE GRUNK. THE LEFTIST SOCIALIST ELECTORAL ALLIANCE MADE A MOTION IN THE STORTING THIS WEEK THAT NORWAY RECOGNIZE THE PRG AND GRUNK, AND I WOULD NOT WISH FRYDENLAND TO CONCLUDE FROM OUR FAILUE TO RAISE THE QUESTION IN WASHINGTON THAT THE USG DOES NOT TAKE THE QUESTION AS SERIOUSLY AS THE DEMARCHES OF ITS AMBASSADOR MIGHT SUGGEST.

7. SHOULD THE SECRETARY RECEIVE FRYDENLUND, HE MIGHT WISH TO USE THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION AND A DISCUSSION OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS TO GIVE FRYDENLUND A SMALL POLITICAL SCIENCE LECTURE ON PRIORITIES AND POWER REALITIES. NORWAY PLACES PRIORITY ON THE MAINTENANCE OF ITS SECURITY THROUGH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND THE PROMOTION OF CLOSE TIES WITH THE U.S., BUT ITS PUBLIC AND OFTEN ITS LEADING OFFICIALS ARE BLIND TO THE INCONSISTENCY OF A POLICY WHICH SERVES TO WEAKEN THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THEIR SECURITY. FOR MANY NORWEGIANS, REMAINING NEUTRAL IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT WAS ALL-IMPORTANT AND THEY DID NOT APPRECIATE THE DANGER OF THE USSR EXPLOINTING A SITUATION OF CONFLICT TO STRENGTHEN ITS STRATEGIC POSITION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. SIMILARLY, A MILITARILY WEAKER NATO WOULD BE ALMOST PREFERABLE FOR MANY NORWEGIANS TO ONE SULLIED BY CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH "UNDEMOCRATIC STATES" LIKE GREECE, TURKEY, PORTUGAL-- AND CERTAINLY SPAIN. WE CAN AT LEAST HOPE TO PROVIDE FRYDENLUND WITH SOME ARGUMENTS SHOULD HE CHOOSE TO MAKE A STAND ON WHAT REMAIN HIGHLY EMOTIONAL ISSUES IN NORWAY.
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